



INDIANA COMMISSION
for
HIGHER EDUCATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commission accepting applications for “Improving Teacher Quality Program” funds

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education will be accepting applications for the *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program* starting tomorrow, June 12. It is estimated the Commission will receive approximately \$950,000 in federal funds for competitive grant funds that bring together Indiana colleges with high-need school districts to support the professional development of teachers in core academic subjects.

“The Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program provides an important opportunity for Indiana’s K-12 and higher education communities to work together to ensure that Hoosier students are prepared to succeed in college and careers,” said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers.

The proposal deadline is Monday, July 14, 2014, with proposals due by 5 p.m. EST. Eligible applications must include partnerships consisting of: 1) a postsecondary school of education; 2) a postsecondary school of arts and sciences; and 3) a “high need” local education agency, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. Applications are available at www.che.in.gov.

Required Project Components:

- Aligns with Indiana’s Academic Standards and the high-need school’s Local Improvement Plan.
- Advances teacher knowledge and understanding of “scientifically based” instruction and the core academic subjects that they teach.
- Includes plans for independent evaluation and program sustainability.
- Metrics/assessments of the project and how it impacts Hoosier students and faculty.

Preference given to proposals that:

- Align classroom curriculum and instruction with expectations for college and career readiness.
- Promote strategies that engage students in rigorous, scientifically-based instruction in math, reading, writing, and science.
- Increase the number of “highly qualified” minority teachers and other underrepresented groups.
- Meet a legislative requirement.

The *Improving Teacher Quality Grant* program is funded by and operates under the federal legislation known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the largest federal initiative that supports professional development projects for teachers and principals, with a focus on high-need school districts and higher education institutions. Through this legislation, state education agencies, local education agencies and state agencies for higher education receive funds on a formula basis.